



**Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command**  
**ACCIDENT ABSTRACT**

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**ACCIDENT TYPE:** Hand tool/saw  
**INJURY:** Laceration  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Masonry/CMU  
**EQUIPMENT INVOLVED:** Electric portable masonry chop saw w/laser metal blade  
**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Long pants, shirt, safety glasses, hard hat

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:**

A mason was attempting to cut an 8" X 16" hollow web concrete masonry unit (CMU) with a portable electric saw known as a chop saw. Apparently the saw kicked back when making an unusual cross cut causing lacerations to the employee thigh and wrist. The employee received approximately 100 stitches.

**DIRECT CAUSE:**

Apparently the employee was not able to control the saw when the kickback occurred.

**CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:**

1. The saw being used is typically used to create penetrations in existing walls. The more appropriate saw for cutting CMU to be installed when cross or long rip cuts are needed for notching CMU into and around objects, is a masonry table type saw.
2. Manufacturers' specifications list portable electric chop saws of this type with a weight of approximately 30 – 35 lbs. If used for prolonged periods the saw may cause the operator tire and loose the tight grip necessary to control the saw.
3. The design of the saw guard requires the saw blade to be fully inserted into the material being cut. If not fully engaged rotating parts of the saw blade are exposed to the worker.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

1. When preplanning takes place for the work phase consideration must be given to making sure the right equipment is on the job to do the work.

**CONSTRUCTION MISHAP TODAY=MISHAP PREVENTION TOMORROW**

**Portable masonry chop saw**



**Masonry table saw**

